



**Whatcom County Horticultural
Pest and Disease Board**
1000 N Forest St
Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225

Regular Meeting

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board
Monday, August 3, 2020 1:00pm

Remote electronic meeting (via Zoom)

MINUTES

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

- Determination of Quorum by Allen Brown Brown (chair)
 - Andrew Taylor Taylor
 - Allen Brown Brown
 - Melissa Bedlington-Kleindel Bedlington
 - Chris Benedict
 - Bret Pehl
- Quorum achieved

New Business

Abandoned raspberry planting at Pole Rd and Mecklum Rd

Bret Pehl brought this issue to the attention of the board based on community concern over this Meeker variety raspberry planting which has not been managed this season. Chris Benedict visited the field the week of 7/27/2020 and reported that there was fruit on the plants and on the ground and an abundance of Spotted Wing Drosophila. Chris Benedict also

reported that he'd been in contact with the landowner (lessor) who is a separate entity from the field manager (lessee). Landowner is amenable to removing the planting and had already planned to do so. Chris Benedict also discussed his communication with Whatcom County's legal department regarding possible action, as this is the first direct action regarding an issue like this that the Board has ever dealt with. The process suggested by the Whatcom County legal department was informal contact with the landowner followed by an official letter from the board requiring specific action. The following possible actions were listed:

- Leave planting as-is and remove later this year
 - Could be specified in letter to land owner
- Require action immediately – would require 3rd party to deal with issue
 - Involves spending funds
 - Currently there is no clear mechanism for the Board to access funds through the County

The board then discussed the relative urgency of action; whether the adjacent blueberries are at serious risk from the increased pest population, whether mobilization is possible, as well as the potential precedent set by requiring an insecticide application.

Melissa Bedlington motioned that a letter be sent to the landowner requiring the field be turned under within 60 days.

Andrew Taylor seconded the motion

All in Favor, Motion passed.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

Andrew Taylor motions to approve minutes from February 25, 2020

Melissa Bedlington-Kleindel seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion approved

Melissa Bedlington-Kleindel motions to approve minutes from November 2018

Allen Brown seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion approved

Asian Giant Hornet

Chris Benedict notified the board that a worker hornet was found in a trap in Birch Bay, WA the week of 9/27/2020, and the WSDA is actively looking for a nest, including searching for a live worker in order to place a tracker and follow it to the nest.

Melissa Bedlington-Kleindel asked whether there have been any reports of honey bee kills and Chris Benedict reported that no honey bee kills have been reported.

Adjourn

Melissa Bedlington-Kleindel motions to adjourn

Kay Oakley seconded the motion

All in favor

Meeting Adjourned